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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,184	11/13/2001	Eyal S. Ron	028.02.140PO2	5706

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EXAMINER

JONES, DAMERON LEVEST

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1616

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2004 //

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/007,184

Applicant(s)

RON ET AL.

Examiner

D. L. Jones

Art Unit

1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2003 and 27 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 41-73 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 69-73 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 41-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 10. 6) ☐ Other: _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1. The Examiner acknowledges receipt of Paper No. 9, filed 9/26/03, wherein claim 1 was canceled and claims 2-35 (renumbered as claims 42-73 under 37 CFR 1.121) added. In addition, the Examiner acknowledges receipt of the information disclosure statement filed 10/27/03, Paper No. 10.

Note: Claims 41-73 are pending.

RESTRICTION INTO GROUPS

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 41-68, drawn to compositions comprising a copolymer having a polyoxyalkylene block and a bioadhesive polymer or oligomer as set forth in independent claims 41 and 42, class 424, subclass 401+.
- II. Claims 69-73, drawn to a method of making a copolymer comprising a polyoxyalkylene and a vinyl(carboxylic acid), class 252, subclass 182.11+.

3. Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the products (both grouped in Group I) comprise a polyoxyalkylene block and a bioadhesive polymer or oligomer

and optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable agent or cosmetic agent that are materially different may be generated by the process disclosed in claims 69-73.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. A telephone call was made not made to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement because an election based on original presentation as set forth below was made.

6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

ELECTION BY ORIGINAL PRESENTATION

8. Newly submitted claims 41-73 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: originally presented claim 1 was directed to a reverse thermally viscosifying composition that response to an environmental stimulus and is dispersed in an aqueous medium was claimed. The composition comprised a linear block copolymer wherein a polyoxyalkylene having a hydrophobic region and a hydrophobic region was present and a biocompatible polymer or oligomer. However, now Applicant has claims directed to the compositions and methods of making a copolymer comprising a polyoxyalkylene and a vinyl(carboxylic acid).

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 69-73 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

WITHDRAWN CLAIMS

9. Claims 69-73 are withdrawn for reasons of record in the above paragraph.

RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S AMENDMENT/ARGUMENTS

10. The Applicant's amendment filed 9/26/03 (Paper No. 9) to the rejection of claim 1 made by the Examiner under double patenting has been fully considered and deemed

persuasive because Applicant has canceled claim 1. Therefore, the said rejection is hereby withdrawn.

NEW GROUNDS OF REJECTIONS

Obviousness-type Double Patenting

11. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

12. Claims 41-73 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9, 11-14, 17, and 19-40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,316,011. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both sets of claims are directed to compositions comprising a copolymers having at least a first polyoxyalkylene block having a hydrophobic and hydrophilic region and at least a second block having a bioadhesive polymer that is reversible at a temperature in the range of 22 – 40 degrees Celsius. The claims differ in that those of the instant invention are not limited to linear block copolymers.

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. L. Jones whose telephone number is (703) 308-4640. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 6:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page can be reached on (703) 308 - 2927. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. L. Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

D. L. Jones
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1616

January 22, 2004